GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:249
ANSWERED ON:21.11.2000
IMPLEMENTATION OF WATERSHED DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES
SUBODH MOHITE

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to bring all the Watershed Development Programmes under single umbrella for the purpose of implementation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total degraded land area rehabilitated since implementation of the programme, till date;

(d) whether NABARD has also set-up a special fund for Watershed Development Programmes;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the progress made through utilization of this fund in the current financial year?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (PROF. RITA VERMA)

(a) & (b) Yes, Sir. A proposal is under consideration to bring all the Programmes and schemes as well as the institutional infrastructure related to land in rural areas under the control of newly created Department of Land Resources in the Ministry of Rural Development.

(c) Under the different Watershed Development Programmes being implemented by various Ministries/Departments, 15.62 m.ha. degraded land area has been rehabilitated upto March, 2000.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) & (f) A Watershed Development Fund (WDF) for Rs. 200 crores comprising NABARD contribution of Rs.100 crores and matching contribution of Rs.100 crores by Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India has been established at NABARD with the objective of integrated watershed development in 100 priority districts through participatory approach. As per the programme of operation, 14 States will be covered in two Phases (6 States in Phase - I and 8 States in Phase - II). States in Phase - I include Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa and Uttar Pradesh and States in Phase - II include Bihar, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Karnataka, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal. Two third of the allocation from the WDF will be loan to the State Government at an interest rate of 9.5% for watershed development and remaining one third will be for grant based activities covering promotional efforts and capacity building.

NABARD has entered into Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Government of Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh for their participation in the WDF. Government of Gujarat and Maharashtra were advised by the NABARD that loan of Rs.20 crores each is available under WDF. So far, three Capacity Building Projects (CBPs) in Gujarat and two CBPs in Orissa have been sanctioned by NABARD.